



## **TURTLE MOUNTAIN BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS**

P.O. BOX 900  
BELCOURT, NORTH DAKOTA 58316

March 8, 2005

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John Muleta, Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau  
Marlene Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St., S.W.  
Washington, DC  
20554

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

MAR 11 2005

FCC - MAILROOM

Re: WT Docket No. 05-50

Dear Mr. Muleta & Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to ask you to approve Alltel's plan to buy Western Wireless Corporation. Western Wireless has been providing excellent phone service on our reservation. Our tribe relies heavily on communications technology. Our people need to be able to communicate with each other in a reliable and affordable way. This is important for our elders, our students, our tribal government, tribal health care workers, and our emergency response personnel.

We understand that the merger will expand the combined company into 33 states, eliminating roaming costs for the combined company's customers in many rural areas and increasing the number of "in-network" mobile phone users that customers can call for free. We expect that the merger will also improve the signal strength for our tribal members on the reservation and in the surrounding communities.

The merger will create a strong competitor to the larger, nationwide wireless companies, and will provide tribal residents with expanded services, which is something tribal consumers need.

Please approve this merger as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Ken W. Davis  
Chairman